
**MINUTES
HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
Monday, March 8, 2010
5:00 p.m.
Human Resources
Pinnacle Training Room
7575 E. Main Street
Scottsdale, Arizona**



PRESENT: Jeff Jameson, Chair
Linda Simmons, Vice Chair
Bob Fox, Commissioner
Susan Galpin, Commissioner
Kuros Lamé, Commissioner
Edward Lopez, Commissioner
Joel Martin, Commissioner

STAFF: Linda Walton, Staff Liaison
Velicia McMillan, Human Resources Administrator
Patsy McFadden, Workforce Development

1. **Call to Order**

Chair Jameson called the meeting of the Scottsdale Human Relations Commission to order at 5:17 p.m.

2. **Review and Approval of Minutes**

COMMISSIONER LOPEZ MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY 8, 2010 REGULAR MEETING, AS AMENDED. COMMISSIONER MARTIN SECONDED. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY BY A VOTE OF SEVEN (7) TO ZERO (0).

3. **Team Building**

The Commission engaged in a team building exercise using the True Colors method. Commissioner Lopez felt that an understanding of the various talents of the Commissioners would benefit the decision making process. Chair Jameson found value in understanding the group's strengths, and what motivates them to perform at a higher level.

4. **Review of Old Business from Previous Meeting**

Commissioner Fox reported on diversity initiatives in the School District. One of the biggest issues they face is time. They are under State mandates to dedicate a certain amount of time to specific subjects. This leaves little flexibility to bring in other topics that do not meet the State's definition of curriculum requirements. Service Learning is considered an elective. The teachers are highly supportive of the concepts of diversity, but it is difficult to dedicate any time to the subject. The schools are currently doing lots of diversity-related activities, but there is no central coordination, nor is there a mechanism to make connections. The key middle-school years offer the least amount of scheduling flexibility. The School District has offered to visit the HRC to report on their activities and discuss their issues and challenges.

Commissioner Lopez said the School District employs a subtle approach to diversity, because some people do not see the need for it. They place an emphasis on minority recruiting to ensure that the workforce represents the community's diversity. The challenges include the lack of minority candidates, and perceived stereotypes of Scottsdale. They are looking for candidates with leadership qualities.

Commissioner Fox said educators are looking for collaborators to help them with ideas to address diversity inside their constraints. Ms. Walton suggested researching other Valley school districts to see what works for them. Vice Chair Simmons proposed exploring ways to teach diversity within the confines of the required curriculum.

COMMISSIONER LOPEZ MOVED TO EXTEND AN INVITATION TO REPRESENTATIVES OF THE SCOTTSDALE UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT TO PROVIDE A PRESENTATION AT A FUTURE HRC MEETING. COMMISSIONER FOX SECONDED. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY BY A VOTE OF SEVEN (7) TO ZERO (0).

5. **2011 General Plan Working Group**

COMMISSIONER LOPEZ MOVED TO TABLE THE DISCUSSION ON THE 2011 GENERAL PLAN WORKING GROUP UNTIL THE NEXT MEETING. COMMISSIONER MARTIN SECONDED. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY BY A VOTE OF SEVEN (7) TO ZERO (0).

6. **Cross Cultural Communication Series**

Ms. Walton reported that the most recent session attracted over 75 participants on Tuesday, and 65 on Thursday. Mike Wilson, who appeared in the video, was the panel moderator. Tuesday's discussion strayed away from the topic of the video to include immigration in general. This generated some tension, and several people walked out. Thursday's discussion was narrowly focused on the video topic. The library ordered five copies of the video.

The City received a call from a citizen who expressed concern over the use of City funds for the very politicized topic of immigration. He questioned the producer's agenda. Ms. Walton offered to connect him with the producer, but the citizen said he would take his complaint to the Mayor's Office. Out of concern for potential trouble, a police officer was present at both events, though there were no significant incidents.

7. **Regional Unity Walk**

Ms. Walton reported on the Unity Walk planning meeting of March 4. The general sense was that the event was a success. Some concerns were raised about having a speaker at the end. Some interest was expressed in a change of location next year, but the group decided to remain in Tempe to build consistency and momentum. The group discussed ways to cut down on costs next year by reusing many materials from this year's event. The organizers intend to talk to Empty Bowls about collaborating on a joint effort next year. Organizers would like to clarify their intent that any group should be allowed to put out information. Organizations such as the ADL or the Urban League might also be invited to participate. The water taxi did not work as anticipated because it was very slow, and there was only one available.

8. **Chairman Reports**

Chair Jameson noted that the City's special election on Charter change and bed tax will be held on March 9. The State Legislature is considering a cut in eligibility for Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System (AHCCCS) that could potentially throw 300,000 people off the State health program. He asked the Commissioners whether they felt this should be viewed as a human relations issue, and whether the HRC should make a recommendation to City Council. Vice Chair Simmons suggested working through Scottsdale's representative to the State Legislature. Chair Jameson requested a future agenda item to discuss this issue.

9. **Commissioner Items**

Commissioner Lamé attended the Mayor's State of the City address. He distributed a document explaining his reasons for joining the Commission. Commissioner Lopez noted that Services Learning is hosting an event for children with special needs at McCormick-Stillman Railroad Park on March 27. Vice Chair Simmons attended the benefit dinner for the Scottsdale Training and Rehabilitation Services (STARS), who focus on adults with disabilities whose parents are aging. The Scottsdale Charros will generate over \$300,000 of funds for charities during the course of the Cactus League this year. Commissioner Martin attended the Asian Chamber of Commerce Dinner. Chair Jameson attended the Diversity Leadership Alliance meeting.

10. **Open Call to the Public (A.R.S. § 38-431.02)**

There were no public comments.

11. **Staff Liaison Items**

Ms. Walton reported that the Regional HRC meeting is on March 22. The jazz festival is trying to come up with a more inclusive name for the event. Three benefit dinners are occurring in April: the Phoenix Indian Center, the NAACP, and the Urban League. The General Plan Update Committee plans to meet on April 5 and 19, May 3 and 17, and June 7 and 21.

12. **Adjournment**

With no further business to conduct, the meeting adjourned at 7:32 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

A/V Tronics, Inc. DBA AVTranz.